

SIKKIM

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE



EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

Gangtok

Friday 19th December, 2014

No. 554

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES AND VETERINARY SERVICES
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG (SIKKIM)

No. 27/ AH&VS (Adm)

Dated:- 18.12.2014

NOTIFICATION

Whereas with a view to prevent, control and to keep Sikkim rabies free, the Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health (SARAH) Division of the Department of AH, LF&VS, Government of Sikkim has taken a number of initiatives in the State. SARAH has developed a well established dog population/rabies control programme and dedicated manpower and facility. Due to its concerted efforts, incidence of rabies in humans and animals has declined significantly. There is no known case of animal rabies for last 4 years and similarly no reported case of human rabies for last 7-8 years. In view of this, Sikkim has a good chance of becoming India's first Rabies Free State.

Now therefore, in order to augment and reinforce initiative taken by the Department of AH, LF&VS as regards rabies; dog and cat population control as well as to declare Sikkim rabies free, the Government of Sikkim hereby makes the following orders with immediate effect;

1. Notice of Rabies or Suspected Rabies

Henceforth rabies in both human and animals in Sikkim shall be a Notifiable Disease. The healthcare providers of Department of Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services apart from all the private practitioners (medical as well as veterinary) henceforth shall notify every rabies case/incidence. District Medical Superintendent/Chief Medical Officer of a district in case of human rabies. Rabies cases in animals shall be notified to Veterinary Officer/ Deputy Director of a District in prescribed format.

A person who knows or suspects that an animal is exposed to rabies or was at the time of its death so affected, shall with all practicable speed, give notice to an officer of the local authority, a health worker or an officer in charge of the respective police station. Any person so informed shall immediately transmit the information received in the most expeditious manner to the Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health Division.

2. Entry of Dogs and Cats into Sikkim

- (a) Any person who brings or who authorises the bringing into Sikkim of dog or cat must:
- i. Have the pet fitted with an approved microchip so that it can be properly identified
 - ii. Have the pet vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before entering Sikkim. This requirement does not apply, however if the animal is less than 3 months of age. A valid vaccination certificate must accompany the animal.
 - iii. Young puppies and kittens less than 3 months of age must be confined at a place of owner's choosing until they are three months old and then they must be vaccinated. The owner also must vaccinate against other prevailing diseases other than rabies. They must remain in confinement for a further period of 30 days after rabies vaccination.
 - iv. Register shall be maintained by the Department of AH,LF&VS at every checkpoint/ check post and the in-charge shall maintained all the details in prescribed format. The In-charge of the check post or any nearest Veterinary In-charges in 2-3 weeks time has to verify that the dogs/cats that entered in to Sikkim is healthy and is not affected with rabies.

When no officials of the Department of AH,LF&VS is available, the register shall be maintained by the police or other agency who are posted in other check-posts. The abstract of the register should be sent to the nearest Veterinary Centre and further to SARAH Division every month.

- (b) If Anti-Rabies vaccination has not been performed, or if the certificate is not valid, the animal may be admitted if it is confined upon arrival at a place of the owner's choosing. The dog must be vaccinated within four days after arrival at the final destination, but no more than 10 days after arrival in Sikkim. The animal must remain in confinement for at least 30 days after being vaccinated. If the vaccination was performed less than 30 days before arrival, the animal may be admitted but must be confined at a place of the owner's choosing until at least 30 days have passed since the vaccination. Owners must provide evidence of vaccination to the Sikkim Licensing and Registering Authority as required under Section 2(b) of The Sikkim Stray Dogs and Rabies Control Act, 2000. An owner's home can be the "place of the owner's choosing."
- (c) The dogs and cats from Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet or any nearby porous international borders shall not be allowed entry into Sikkim. Any dogs from these countries shall invariably be imported through Animal Quarantine and Certification Service Officers of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

By Order and in the name of the Governor.

**Commissioner cum Secretary
Department of AH, LF&VS.**